



Transforming Professional Learning Systems for Reform: Common Core and More District Network Project

A partnership opportunity funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation for Washington School Districts

The Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) received a three-year grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (U.S. Programs Grant Number OPP1089743, Common Core Teacher Support). OSPI will work closely with Learning Forward Washington, the State's nine regional Educational Service Districts, and local, regional, and national partners to implement this project.

Focus Areas of the Project:

- ★ Build and support comprehensive professional learning systems in districts,
- ★ Enhance critical professional learning infrastructures and capacity in regions and across the state for sustained, standards-based results, and
- ★ Develop resources for elementary administrators and educators that support K-3 content transitions into Common Core State Standards (CCSS) for English language arts and mathematics in the first year and the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) in the second year.

OSPI is looking for 33 Washington school districts interested in participating with this initiative to support Washington State College- and Career-Ready Standards Implementation. Nine districts will serve as Laboratory Districts and 24 will serve in the role of Critical Friend Districts.

What are Project Goals?

- ★ 75,000 students in participating districts will show growth as a result of increased opportunities to engage in high quality English language arts, math, and science instruction aligned to the CCSS and NGSS.
- ★ Partner districts will gain increased administrator and teacher leader capacity so every educator can meet professional expectations and every student can meet new college- and career-ready learning standards.
- ★ Beyond the WA-TPL partners, additional districts in each region will show growth and change as a result of regional engagement with the WA-TPL project.
- ★ Washington State will grow its infrastructure to support statewide professional learning and establish key components of a comprehensive professional learning system.

Districts will be selected to participate through a competitive process that will prioritize district engagement and demonstrated readiness to implement district-wide, aligned professional learning, and district willingness to engage with colleagues in a statewide transformational professional learning network. Through an iGrant application process, OSPI will identify one Laboratory District in each ESD region. Lab Districts will serve as regional models for the project's approximately 24 Critical Friend Districts, 2-3 in each region.

Why is This Project Important?

The WA-TPL project will focus on enhancing capacity for standards-based professional learning, so school district and building leaders have the knowledge and skills necessary for every educator to increase their instructional capacity to make the instructional shifts the Career- and College-Ready learning standards entail.

What are Lab Districts? Critical Friend Districts?

Lab Districts receive targeted support from OSPI, Learning Forward Washington, and their respective ESD based on learning plans developed and revisited throughout the project period. Lab Districts will undertake extensive self and external analyses using a series of audits (initiative, financial, and policy) that will lead to recommended revisions to its policies, practices, and supports for professional learning. They will serve as a model for other districts that want to achieve full and deep implementation of CCSS, NGSS, and readiness for new assessments.

Critical Friend Districts will be invited to take part in virtual and in-person professional learning opportunities and workgroup meetings with Lab Districts. They will serve as collaborators, critics, and contributors to Lab Districts. They will accelerate implementation of CCSS and NGSS within their district by building on the work of the Lab Districts.

Commitments for District Participation

(OSPI, Learning Forward Washington, the nine Educational Service Districts, and state/national project partners will provide support to participating Districts in all aspects of this project, as needed)

- ✓ Commit to participating in this project throughout the project period (November 2013 – October 2016).
- ✓ Develop a professional learning plan for full implementation of CCSS, NGSS, and other standards and readiness for new assessments to increase student achievement.
- ✓ Work toward systemizing professional learning for CCSS, NGSS, and assessments while considering issues such as district and school readiness, teacher experience, district ratings, student poverty levels, and more.
- ✓ Form district teams to oversee this initiative and work collaboratively to build a coherent system of teaching and learning.
- ✓ Attend two annual 2-day project meetings in person, including project launch in fall, 2014; monthly virtual and/or in person regional professional learning events; and within district ad hoc meetings, as needed.
- ✓ Administer Learning Forward's Standards Assessment Inventory (funding provided) (<http://www.learningforward.org/standards/sai.cfm>).
- ✓ Share lessons learned, products, and experiences resulting from this initiative within and across districts.

How Will Partner Districts Benefit?

- Resources: Lab Districts receive \$7500 in Y1 and \$15,000 in project Y2 & Y3; Critical Friend Districts receive \$5000 in Y1 and \$10,000 in project Y2 & Y3.
- Opportunities to actively collaborate with other districts experiencing the same transitions
- Deeper connections between central office and schools for increased broad system impact
- Enhanced learning about Professional Learning via cross collaboration and professional development planning support
- Access to formative assessment for effective Professional Learning and the Standards Assessment Inventory pre/post tools
- Technical assistance, statewide and regional support, and a district or building level coach/consultant to help with transitions and Q & A.

Guiding Information for District Invitation

Details will be announced on iGrants the week of March 24, 2014 with a 4-week turnaround.

For more information about applying, contact Dan Bissonnette, Manager at OSPI for Washington Transforming Professional Learning: dan.bissonnette@k12.wa.us or 360-725-6352